

Seco-sativene and Seco-longifolene Sesquiterpenoids from Cultures of Endophytic Fungus *Bipolaris eleusines*



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Abstract Two new seco-sativene sesquiterpenoids, bipolenins D (**1**) and E (**2**), a new seco-longifolene sesquiterpenoid, bipolenin F (**3**), together with three known analogues (**4–6**), were obtained from cultures of endophytic fungus *Bipolaris eleusines*. Their structures were established by MS and NMR data. Compounds **1–6** showed no activity to five human cancer cell lines.

Keywords *Bipolaris eleusines* · Sesquiterpenoid · Bipolenins D–F

1 Introduction

Sativene sesquiterpenoids, as well as its derivatives, usually possessed an unusual backbone characterized by a 5/6 or 5/7 bridge ring system [1–7], which have become targets of synthetic chemists [8–12]. Previously, these sesquiterpenoids were obtained mainly from fungi *Cochliobolus*, *Drechslera*, and *Bipolaris*, et al., while some of them displayed bioactive diversity such as antiplasmodial activity and cytotoxicity [1–7, 13, 14]. We also reported sativene sesquiterpenoids bipolenins A–C from cultures of endophytic fungus *Bipolaris eleusines* [15], while bipolenin B

showed certain cytotoxicities to human cancer cell lines [15]. In order to search for more interesting sativene sesquiterpenoids, we expanded the fermentation of *B. eleusines* and finished the chemical studies. As a result, we obtained three new sativene sesquiterpenoids, named bipolenins D–F (**1–3**), as well as three known ones, prehelminthosporol (**4**) [13], prehelminthosporolactone (**5**) [13, 14], and victoxinine (**6**) [14] (Fig. 1). Their structures were elucidated by extensive spectroscopic methods. Compound **2** was a dimer which was rarely found previously.

2 Results and Discussion

Compound **1** was isolated as a colorless oil. The molecular formula was established as $C_{16}H_{26}O_2$ by HREIMS at m/z 273.1818 $[M + Na]^+$ (calcd for $C_{16}H_{26}O_2Na$, 273.1825), corresponding to four degrees of unsaturation. The IR absorption bands at 1631, 1454, and 1368 cm^{-1} revealed the existence of double bond. In the 1H NMR spectrum of compound **1** (Table 1), signals at δ_H 0.85 (3H, d, $J = 6.6\text{ Hz}$, Me-10), 0.94 (3H, d, $J = 6.6\text{ Hz}$, Me-11), and 1.19 (3H, s, Me-8) were ascribable for three methyl groups, while signals at δ_H 4.82 and 4.72 should be assigned to a terminal double bond. The ^{13}C NMR and DEPT spectra

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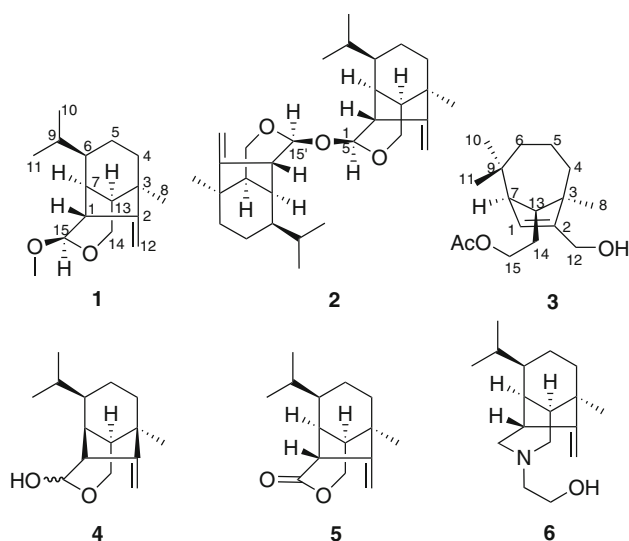


Fig. 1 Structures of compounds 1–6

showed 16 carbon resonances which were ascribable for four methyl (including one methoxy), four methylene, six methine and two quaternary carbons (Table 1). On the basis of data comparison with those sesquiterpenoids reported from the same resource [13–15], compound **1** was suggested to possess a seco-sativene backbone with similar structure to that of prehelminthosporol (**4**) [13]. The key difference was that the hydroxy at C-15 in **4** was replaced by a methoxy group in **1**, as indicated by HMBC correlation from δ_{H} 3.36 (3H, s, OMe) to δ_{C} 103.8 (d, C-15). Detailed analyses of ^1H – ^1H COSY and HMBC data suggested that other parts of **1** were the same to those of **4**. In addition, the ROESY correlation between H-15 and H-7 were detected, which indicated that H-15 should be α oriented. Therefore, the structure of compound **1** was established and named bipolenin D (Fig. 1).

Compound **2** was isolated as a colorless oil. The molecular formula $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_3$ was identified by HRESIMS at m/z 477.3340 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ (calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 477.3345). The ^1H NMR spectrum of **2** seemed to be similar to that of **1**, including three singlets for three methyl, as well as signals for a terminal double bond. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum displayed fifteen carbon resonances comprised of three methyl, four methylene, six methine, and two quaternary carbons. These data suggested that compound **2** was a dimer of seco-sativene sesquiterpenoid, which possessed a completely symmetrical structure. Preliminary analyses of NMR data suggested that the two units of compound **2** were closely related to that of **1**. In the HMBC spectrum, a key correlation from δ_{H} 4.79 (1H, d, $J = 3.0$ Hz, H-15 and H-15') to δ_{C} 99.6 (d, C-15' and C-15) suggested that the two units were connected by ester bond of C-15–O–C-15', which allowed the two units were completely the same. The ROESY correlations of

H-15/H-7, H-15/H-14, and H-14/H-7, as well as similar coupling constant of H-15 (d, $J = 3.0$ Hz) with that in **1**, indicated that H-15 and H-15' should be α oriented. Therefore, the structure of compound **2** was established and named bipolenin E.

Compound **3** was isolated as a colorless oil. The molecular formula was established as $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_3$ by HREIMS at m/z 280.2025 $[\text{M}]^+$ (calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_3$, 280.2038). The ^{13}C NMR spectrum displayed seventeen carbon resonances. Of them, signals at δ_{C} 21.0 (q) and 171.2 (s) were ascribed to one acetoxy group, while other fifteen signals were similar to those of secolongifolene diol [5]. These data suggested that compound **3** should be an *O*-acetyl derivative of secolongifolene diol. The significant downfield shifts of CH-15 (δ_{H} 4.13 and 3.99; δ_{C} 63.7) indicated that the *O*-acetyl group should be placed at C-15. The other data suggested that other parts of **3** were the same to those of secolongifolene diol. Previously, we obtained *O*-acetyl derivatives of secolongifolene diol from the same resource, bipolenins B and C [15], in which the NMR data were also similar to those of **3** [15]. Therefore, compound **3** was established and named bipolenin F.

Three known sativene sesquiterpenoids, prehelminthosporol (**4**) [13], prehelminthosporolactone (**5**) [13, 14], and victoxinine (**6**) [14] were also obtained. Their structures were identified by comparison data with those reported in the literature.

Compounds **1**–**6** were evaluated for their cytotoxicities against five human cancer cell lines using the method reported previously [15]. However, no compound showed any activity ($\text{IC}_{50} > 40 \mu\text{M}$).

3 Experimental Section

3.1 General Experimental Procedures

Optical rotations were obtained on a JASCO P-1020 digital polarimeter (Horiba, Kyoto, Japan). NMR spectra were obtained on Bruker 500 MHz and Bruker Avance III 600 MHz spectrometers (Bruker, Karlsruhe, Germany). HRESIMS were recorded on an Agilent 6200 Q-TOF MS system (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA). HREIMS were measured on a Waters Autospec Premier P776 mass spectrometer (Waters, Milford, MA, USA). Silica gel 200–300 mesh (Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc., Qingdao, China) and Sephadex LH-20 (Amersham Biosciences, Upssala, Sweden) were used for column chromatography. Preparative High Performance Liquid Chromatography (Pre-HPLC) was performed on an Agilent 1260 liquid chromatography system equipped with a Zorbax SB-C18 column (5 μm , 9.4 mm \times 150 mm) (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA).

Table 1 ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data of compounds **1–3** (CDCl_3 , δ in ppm, J in Hz)

No.	1		2		3	
	δ_{H}	δ_{C}	δ_{H}	δ_{C}	δ_{H}	δ_{C}
1	2.57, br s	48.6, d	2.60, br s	49.0, d	5.71, br s	127.4, d
2		158.1, s		157.8, s		146.5, s
3		43.9, s		43.8, s		50.3, s
4	1.45, m; 1.38 m	42.0, t	1.46, m; 1.39, m	41.9, t	1.62, m; 1.41, m	44.4, t
5	1.64, m; 1.11, m	25.9, t	1.66, m; 1.14, m	26.0, t	1.46, m; 1.36, m	21.0, t
6	1.08, m	46.7, d	1.12, m	46.7, d	1.34, m	41.3, t
7	2.61, br s	37.8, d	2.68, br s	37.9, d	1.94, dd (11.8, 4.0)	45.6, d
8	1.19, s	20.3, q	1.19, s	20.4, q	1.02, s	21.2, q
9	1.32, m	30.8, d	1.34, m	31.0, d		35.7, s
10	0.85, d (6.6)	21.0, q	0.87, s	21.2, q	0.89, s	31.9, q
11	0.94, d (6.6)	21.1, q	0.98, s	21.1, q	0.91, s	27.3, q
12	4.82, s; 4.72, s	101.1, t	4.85, s; 4.71, s	101.4, t	4.11, d (14.0) 4.03, d (14.0)	59.8, t
13	1.32, m	51.5, d	1.34, m	51.4, d	1.98, br s	57.0, d
14	3.74, br s	64.8, t	3.77, br s	65.1, t	1.76, m; 1.37, m	29.8, t
15	4.39, d (3.3)	103.8, d	4.79, d (3.0)	99.6, d	4.13, m; 3.99, m	63.7, t
OMe	3.36, s	54.6, q				
OAc					2.05, s	21.0, q 171.2, s

3.2 Fungus Material

The fungus *Bipolaris eleusines* was isolated from fresh potatoes sampled from the nursery of Yunnan Agricultural University at random in July 2012. The fungus was identified by observing the morphological characteristics and analysis of the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) regions (Max identity: 99%; Query cover: 98%; Accession: KY909768.1). The strain is preserved at Yunnan Agricultural University, China (No. PE20120728-2).

3.3 Fermentation, Extraction, and Isolation

This fungal strain was cultured on potato dextrose agar (PDA) medium at 25 °C for 10 days. The agar plugs were inoculated in 500-mL Erlenmeyer flasks, each containing 100 mL of potato dextrose media. Flask cultures were incubated at 28 °C on a rotary shaker at 160 rpm for two days as seed culture. Sixty 500-mL Erlenmeyer flasks each containing 150 mL of potato dextrose broth (PDB) were individually inoculated with 25 mL of seed culture, and were incubated at 25 °C on a rotary shaker at 160 rpm for 15 days.

The cultures of *B. eleusines* (40 L) were extracted four times by EtOAc to afford a crude extract (21 g), which was subjected to silica gel column chromatography, eluted with a gradient of CHCl_3 -MeOH (1:0 to 0:1) to obtain six fractions (A–F). Fraction B (4.4 g) was separated repeatedly by silica gel (petroleum ether (PE)-acetone; 10:1 to

5:1) to afford **1** (6.8 mg), **2** (6.4 mg), and **5** (3.8 mg). Fraction C (4.3 g) was eluted with PE-acetone (7:1 to 1:1) to give six sub-fractions (C1–C6). Fraction C2 (120 mg) was purified by pre-HPLC (MeCN/ H_2O from 40/60 to 80/20 in 20 min, flow speed: 10 mL/min) to afford **3** (1.3 mg), **4** (7.2 mg), and **6** (2.1 mg).

3.4 Bipolenin D (**1**)

Colorless oil. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} -21.7$ (c 0.20, CHCl_3). IR (KBr) ν_{max} cm^{-1} : 3428, 2920, 1631, 1454, 1368, 1122, 1063, 981, 881; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) and ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) data, see Table 1.

3.5 Bipolenin E (**2**)

Colorless oil. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} +28.8$ (c 0.20, MeOH). IR (KBr) ν_{max} cm^{-1} : 3429, 2952, 2848, 1657, 1453, 1386, 1119, 981, 882; ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3) and ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3) data, see Table 1; HRESIMS m/z : 477.3340 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ (calcd for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 477.3345).

3.6 Bipolenin F (**3**)

White powder; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{17} +1.6$ (c 0.20, MeOH). ^1H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl_3) and ^{13}C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl_3) data, see Table 1; HREIMS m/z : 280.2025 $[\text{M}]^+$ (calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_3$, 280.2038).

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Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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